

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – October & November 2023

**Street Lamp 22**, adjacent to *The Cottage*, Chelveston and 1 Water Lane, is still waiting for Telent (Openreach's contractor) to sort out a date with National Grid to temporarily make safe and remove the power cable before they can replace the rotting BT pole.

This was originally all supposed to have happened in April, but is now proposed for week 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)**. Originally purchased as battery powered, the effort involved in safely swapping the battery packs has prompted the Council to look at alternative power sources.

The Council are awaiting costs from the supplier to convert two of the SIDs to solar and one to mains transformer, so that they will be active more often.

**Community Minibus survey results**. From the 2017 Parish Appraisal, we estimated approx. 20% of households in the parish would be eligible (now or soon) for concessionary bus passes, providing free off peak travel.

By the survey closure date, only 5% of households responded, of which 2/3<sup>ds</sup> of whom had bus passes (or would have in the next 5 years). Rushden and Rushden Lakes were the top destinations for off peak travel, along with Raunds GP surgery for medical visits.

Accordingly, at this time, the Parish Council does not consider there is sufficient demand to part fund a regular off peak service.

**Allotment shed replacement**: The Parish Council is grateful to the Foulger Trust for a grant to fund the first phase of the allotment shed project. The grant of £2,419 covers not only the purchase of the new sheds, but the labour to erect them and the disposal costs of the old ones. The award of the grant means that there will be no cost to the rest of the parish.

The allotment tenants were surveyed on the specification of the sheds and their preferences have been included. The first four sheds (the ones in worst condition) will be replaced this autumn, by a local handyman, Alistair Mead. Alistair is a semi-retired carpenter with 35 years' experience in the construction industry.

**External Audit**: The Parish Council's external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, has concluded their audit into the finances for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, with no matters arising.

Whilst the Council's turnover is below the threshold for mandatory audit, the Councillors believe it is important to demonstrate to the residents that the Council's finances are being managed lawfully.

**School House**. You may have noticed that the *School House* next to the Village Hall is swathed in scaffold and wondered why. Well here's the reason... In 2022, during a storm, a large slab of render fell from one of the chimneys and landed in the front garden, sticking up like a tombstone. We were fortunate that no one was hurt, and that there was no other damage. This repair was covered by insurance, but an aerial survey by Mike Maywood revealed that the other chimney also had serious cracks in the render.

With this knowledge, the Trustees needed to plan a full repair to avoid the risk of injury or property damage. Re-rendering work started in mid-September and was scheduled to last one week. Unfortunately on day one, it was found that the whole chimney was unstable. It had only been held up by the remaining cracked render, which had just been removed! The immediate demolition of the chimney was ordered and the building was made safe before the end of the day.

The next morning Michael Farrow was able to complete a survey. Cement render had apparently been wrongly installed in the mid 1980s, allowing water to penetrate the underlying limestone. This stone had then crumbled in the frost leaving the mass of chimney brickwork perched on wafer thin crumbling stone. Unfortunately, part of the gable wall had also been rendered in cement (instead of lime) and this also needed to be demolished.

Michael Farrow has been engaged to rebuild the chimney and complete the repairs. In the fullness of time (when funds allow), the remaining render on the other chimney will also be examined. The current work may take another month, but it should last another 100 years.

*(by Adrian Dale, Clerk to the Trustees)*.

**Autumn Litter Pick**. A Big Village litter pick on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**, meeting at the Church at **10:30am**. Join us to clear up our community and see what hidden treasures we can find!

Collect your litter pickers and high vis from St John's Church at 10:30 am. Any questions please email [ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com](mailto:ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com).

**Allotment vacancy**: We have one vacant plot available, with priority given to parish residents. Not only do you reduce those food miles, but you get healthy exercise at the same time! Contact the Clerk (details over) if you are interested.

**Next Issue**: The December & January issue of the Newsletter should be delivered in the first week of December, so if you want to publicise a parish event, please let me know before the end of November.

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

## Events – October & November 2023

**The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist** (contact Arthur Wright - 624530).

There is a communion service **every Sunday morning at 9.00am**.

Our regular Sunday services continue as usual at 9am and while the Rev'd Louise has been on annual holiday we have been very well looked after by Rev'ds Lesley McCormack and Paul Needle.

All of us at St John's are most grateful to the Trustees of the Foulger Trust for their funding of the improvement to the sound system in the church. For various technical reasons the existing system had caused intermittent variations in the level of sound which was most disconcerting so now we have an excellent system which is working well and should last well into the future.

We were also very pleased to host the **Macmillan Coffee Morning** on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September** in the church which proved a great success. We were pleased to see so many visitors who patronised various stalls and the superb refreshments were much appreciated. Many people remarked on the beautiful display of cyclamen on the drive as they walked in and they are probably the best ever and well worth a visit to admire them.

The Coffee Morning produced **an overall profit of just over £1,100** which goes to the Macmillan Charity for cancer sufferers, and we are most grateful for all the helpers who prepared and looked after the stalls, and contributed cakes etc for such a splendid morning's result.

Our **Harvest Service and Supper** takes place on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October** with a service of praise at **4.30pm** and supper to follow at **5.30pm** and then the auction of produce after. All tickets for the supper have been sold and we look forward to an enjoyable evening.

The **Remembrance Sunday** wreath laying will take place on **12<sup>th</sup> November** in the churchyard at approx. **10am**, following the **9am** service in church. It is a short service to remember all who died in two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. As usual, we are expecting the attendance of an American serviceman or woman to pay tribute to the hundreds of young Americans killed on operations from the nearby airfield from 1942 – 45.

Arthur Wright & Andrew Wager, Churchwardens



**The Events Team programme of activities** (TEXT Carol on 07880 556286).

The Events Team will be holding the next **Quiz Night** on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** at St John's Church.

The ticket price includes fish 'n' chips (or vegetarian alternative). This event is always very popular, so to avoid disappointment please order tickets from Carol on 07880 556286 asap!

**As always we are open to suggestions for future events and if anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Carol on 07880-556286**



The Northampton Historic Churches Trust (NHCT) Annual "*Ride & Stride*" held on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September** raised £850 in sponsorship, with £500 raised by Sue Wager. The money raised helps NHCT to continue supporting the marvellous churches across the county with essential repairs and improvements. Best of all, 50% of the money raised will go to St Johns.



**The Parish Council** usually meets on the second Monday of the month at **7.30pm**. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak on any agenda item at the Chair's discretion.

The agenda and meeting papers are posted on the website ([www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk)) and the agenda is on the parish noticeboards at least 3 clear days before the meetings.

### Parish Council Members & Officers

**Chair: Andrew Seaman**, Rosemoor, Raunds Rd.  
**Vice: Jennifer Harwood**, 7 Britten Close.  
**Andy Cuthbert**, 38 The Crescent, Chelston Rise.  
**Clinton Hill**, 52 The Crescent, Chelston Rise.

**Carol Parsons**, 5 Pokas Cottages.  
**Peter Smith**, 2 Bidwell Lane, Caldecott  
**Claire Warsop**, Manorfields, Caldecott  
**Clerk: Mark Hunter**, Ashbury, Caldecott (626039).

E-mails to the Council on [clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk)